

NORTHERN NEWS

UFO



Publication of NUFON....

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JR Comments... The BUFORA National Investigations Committee (NIC) is now into full swing with two recent meetings (October, Bradford,) (March, London). But the involvement of northern ufologists is sadly lacking. I want to take the opportunity to explain the concept.

In 1975 I well recall my first council meetings at BUFORA. Why was the group run like a social club? Surely mere concentration on field investigation was desirable? Such qualms lead to the foundation of UFOIN (UFO Investigators Network), as a freelance team of investigators operating within no group structure. At the time of the UFOIN initiative (1976-77) BUFORA was not ready to accept such radical moves. By 1981 the mood had altered and UFOIN had proven its success. The NIC met for the first time in Edinburgh (March 1982) and agreed to continue very much along the erstwhile UFOIN lines. As a majority of UFOIN members were then present, or BUFORA investigators, the quiet transition (without bureaucratic upheavals) of UFOIN into the NIC began. This has stabilised via subsequent meetings in Manchester (October 1982) and High Wycombe (August 1983), plus the two referenced above.

So what is the NIC? So far as BUFORA is concerned it is the team of 21 Accredited Investigators (or AIs) which cover the country. AIs have special privileges within the national society (eg half price membership and reductions on publication costs). But to earn and retain AI status (which can only be granted by the NIC en-bloc) an investigator has to demonstrate competence not just at investigation but at the production of a readable and valuable case report. Only after submission of their first "to standard" file can AI status even be voted upon. The absolute priority is quality not quantity, hence the figure of just 21 people to cover the UK. This surprises some of the best investigators in Britain, and their case files are a superb example of what can be done.

The NIC has appreciable autonomy, in the sense that it has to report back to BUFORA council on its actions, and it must go to council to sanction any financial requests (It has not been denied any yet!) But other than that it is allowed freedom to get on with its own work. Just as the AIs themselves are treated as equals without any level of bureaucratic interference. It is literally a team of like-minded and high quality investigators getting on with the job of investigating those cases they themselves deem worthy of time and effort. Such selectivity is essential due to pressures of manpower, but is common sense anyway. Experienced investigators know not to waste valuable time on LITS or probable IFOs, and concentrate on the likely unknowns. Without under-rating all data collection the NIC operates on the old style UFOIN principle that more is gained by spending six months on a close encounter than in the same period spending a few days each on assorted lights in the sky.

Naturally, this reflects itself in the NIC meetings. Some time is spent in confirming policy matters, for instance a superb computer data-base is already in operation by Mike Wootten and a computer-based access to any planetary or stellar position (on any date or time) is also instantly accessible to investigators. This is an invaluable tool in research, as are the plethora of detectors who act as consultants in a wide range of fields (from photo cases through to psychology). However, a great deal of time is being afforded specific high strangeness cases. In NIC meetings investigators can thus keep au-fait with current in-process work, learn from one another's experience in the field, and share ideas for further work or exploratory avenues.

Effectively, being involved with the NIC broadens the base of any serious field investigator, beyond their own local area onto a national level. That has to make sense when there are so few good and dedicated investigators around.

Naturally, I would encourage northern investigators to want to join BUFORA. They may ask what they get for their £14 (only £7 when an accredited member). Aside from usual privileges (such as the magazines produced, reduced entrance to lectures held monthly, availability of the massive tape-lecture library, including all the worlds most famous ufologists, or book library, or access to the thousands of case files collated over the past 23 years) it gives the person a chance to fully take part in the NIC itself. These are not things to sneeze at, and do not forget BUFORA's international drawing power for cases (due to its reputation as the leading UK group) or the subscription to a press cutting agency to access out of the way sightings in your area (which no local group could afford to subscribe to).

However, the NIC refuses to be seen as self-centred and opens its full meetings to local groups and independent investigators to attend. Their contributions are always welcomed, although (quite rightly) only BUFORA AIs have actual rights to vote on any issues.

The next NIC meeting is on Saturday, 4 May 1985 in Central London (see Page 16). We always try to tie in dates with other events (eg lectures, conferences) to give the traveller something to travel for. Don't you think you owe it yourselves or your group to be in on the action? After all, ufology stands or falls by what we do together.
The motto behind the NIC concept.

NEWS ROUND-UP

1: WYUFORG have asked me to point out that they are not of the opinion that the Appletreewick photo shows a balloon (see NUN 111 p.11). The photographer (Mrs Jane Emsley) saw nothing and neither did any of the questioned morrismen. Had a balloon been there WYUFORG feel somebody would have spotted it. The question of photo research on the case remains confused. The Harry Harris "professional report" was valueless to them, containing no data. I am of the definite opinion that HH (who paid a ridiculous sum for this report - the analyst refusing to return materials until it was paid!) was "ripped off" by a cold, calculating and very much tongue-in-cheek "expert". His "report" reads to me like an intended joke. WYUFORG currently believe the film does show something unusual, and only further research (and computer enhancement) will aid the matter. This is, I believe, to be done, and the results are awaited with interest. As for the dying morris leader, the fact of his death (well away from the site, of course), on the same day, appears verified. But the timing is more in doubt, it seems.

2: A new book catalogue of 676 titles (new, old, imported, rare, and so on) - many of a UFO nature - has been published by John Tretter 11 Laurel Way London N20 8HR (Tel: 01-445-4293) (Send SAE). Bargain examples include the priceless "The Report on UFOs" by Blue Book chief, Capt Edward Ruppelt (one of the books in my top 5 of all time), for just £4.50 h/b and £1.50 p/b (plus post), much new American (FOI action documents) and excellent ACUDOS research papers from Australia. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS LOT.

3: 1984 was a sad year for ufology. We lost Kenneth Arnold, our 'original' witness, and in December Gray Barker (the original MIB researcher) passed on. My only contact with Gray came in 1983 when he published a 'strange' article in his magazine, "Saucer Smear", based on a transatlantic phone call with me (which never took place!) This contained a long rambling fairy-tale about me sauntering along Woodbridge High Street in a blue flowered dress, meeting "arch enemy" Paul Begg and sipping tea over the first daring news about the Rendlesham Forest case. None of the story was true (indeed as of it being published I had never been to East Anglia in my life!). But when Gray's 'liberties' with the truth (to spin a colourful yarn) were explained to me I managed a chuckle. Gray Barker is one of the few real UFO pioneers and will, of course, be missed.

NB Janet and Colin Bord ask me to correct a point about their "Pulsed light tracks" article (NUN 111 p.5). Whilst they do have serious reservations about FSR, and did not get a reply from Gordon Creighton, as stated, they requested him to remove names from the FSR masthead. I am pleased to put the record straight on that. JR

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major Articles Elsewhere



SPECTRUM 2 (Published by NLUFOIG £3.95,6 issues,12 Newlands Rd Morecambe LA4 5SA)
32pp computer generated,plus photos.Ian Cresswell takes a deep look at Carl Jung and UFOs.Bill Dillon writes on the lessons of new physics for ufology.Worth a look.

BUFOFA Jan/Feb (With the subscription,£14 pa,30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR)
28pp (research related) JTAPE (journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena) has Ali Abutaha
on his extraordinary "UFOs come from the sun" theory, a long UFO/PSI interface article
by Manfred Cassirer, and Stuart Campbell's latest work on electromagnetic natural UAPs.
40pp (news) Bulletin has cases and reports from the NIC and Research team, plus Paul
Norman reviewing Australian Ufology, an interesting critique of hypnotic regression by
John Spencer, plus Albert Budden on his "Psychic Video" approach to Oz Factor Close
Encounters (a prelude to his eagerly anticipated book, "High Strangeness", next year)
See what you are missing??

ANOMALY '85 (Price Unknown, ASSAP 65 Amersham Rd High Wycombe Bucks)(Try £1)
First of the Common Ground replacement, edited by Alan Cleaver, billed as ASSAPs "Journal of Record". 52pp, including plenty of field investigations into asserted anomalies.
Plus Paul Devereux, Paul McCartney and Don Robbins on latest laboratory research into Earthlights, with the first UK reproduction photo of a deliberately created earthlight.

QUEST Jan/Feb (£6, 68 Buller Crescent Leeds LS9 6LJ) Published by YUFOS
Yorkshire cases update and 1984 statistics.YUFOS reply to the media attack on their
July 23 1984 case research (see Media Matters last NUN).Another chunk in the RPV
(Remotely Piloted Vehicle) research.Plus a review of "exploding" UFO cases.

FATE March (\$ 16 US, 12 issues, 500 Hyacinth Place Highland Park Ill 60035 USA)
Alvin Lawson writes at length on his latest "birth trauma" hypothesis research on Abduction cases. He promises "if the hypothesis is proved false...I will pack up my ideas and go back to square one." But he challenges ufology with negligence for ignoring the carefully testable predictions he sets out about all CE 4 cases.

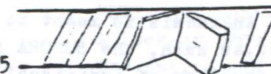
CUFOS Newsletter Jan (With subscription, \$ 35 US, 12 issues, PO 1621 Lima Ohio 45802 USA)
Chris Rutkowski (astronomer) gives a serious scientific criticism of the earthlights theory, claiming it is "on the rocks": Plus interesting UFO over the Seattle Boeing plant

MUFON JOURNAL 201 (3 16, US, 12 issues, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155 USA)
Interview with Paul Devereux (plus two pin-up photos). Plus facsimile reproductions
of the only decent "Rendlesham Forest" media stories post "Sky Crash" (both East
Anglian Daily Times) (not East Anglian - as MUFON claim!!). Investigative journalism,
new facts and some first hand interviews with MoD and USAF. (JR Updates the case investigation,
see issue of QUEST noted above)

UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA 5-5 (\$ 18 AUS, 6 issues, PO 229 Prospect S. Australia 5082)
Lots of good stuff (as usual): Mark Moravec on a rarity (a possible Australian CE 4)
Keith Basterfield updates research into hypnagogic imagery, Keith Roberts researches
"invisible force" cases (where cars are lifted off the road), Joaquim Fernandes
describes his long term research into the Fatima "miracle" of 1917 and sets into what
he regards as a UFO context. Dr Mike Hough on why witnesses exaggerate UFOs into exotic
UFOs, something he intriguingly calls the "Scrying Hypothesis" (c/c - Crystal Balls)

BOOK OF THE MOMENT

DREAMERS by John Grant Ashgrove, 1984 319pp £8.95



John Grant is best known for his wit and semi-serious pot-pourri books (some with Colin Wilson) on the frontiers of the paranormal. This is his first hard-line look at a mystery topic. He attacks it with a mixture of barbed sarcasm and middle of the road skepticism. He seems to want to believe in paranormal options, but tends to back out at the last minute and sit on the fence. Not an altogether bad thing.

The theme of this book is obvious enough from its title. Rather than discuss dreams as a phenomenon and experimental research into their nature, the author adopts the radical (and much more readable) line of telling his theories through a series of anecdotes. Some come from famous dreamers throughout history, and tell of how inventions were made, poems written and novels created "out of thin air". Others come from correspondents and data he has collated in his own way. One woman describes how she dreams crossword puzzles (some of which she cannot complete when awake!)

The book is a rich source of tales, some strange and baffling, some amusing and some hard to believe. The book is well divided into specific sections on different kinds of dream, but I felt it seriously fell down on a lack of material about lucid dreams, hypnogogic and other "borderline" phenomena. In my view the dream has its nearest relevance to UFO close encounters at these fringes.

I was a bit bothered by his blurb, which explains that he also looks at "Flying Saucer Fanatics" and dreams. These fanatics are the Sunderland family, Carl Jung and myself - a list of "eccentrics" I do not mind belonging to! This cursory look at the sort of dreams UFO witnesses have is not much more than superficial, but none the less titillating.

A much larger chunk of the book is concerned with precognition and telepathy, dreams (which have clear relevance to UFO cases which I doubt I need to spell out any more). As an attempt to look at such dreams in a rational way, whilst not throwing out the window all possibility that something truly unexplained is involved, the text succeeds admirably and seals its importance. One of my own (very complicated)

precognitive dreams is described at length. It convinces me (along with several others like it) and it almost convinces the author. But, like me, he cannot figure out why (as in this case) such trivia is involved in *our* glimpses through the time barrier.

A meaty book that has plenty to offer, and with a great deal of obscure anecdotal (but real life) strange dreams. It should be read by researchers into the witness-centred close encounter cases.

The blurb also promises that John Grant's next book is to be called "The Truth about the Flaming Ghoulies". Now that I must see!

[illegible]

ANAMNESIS UPDATE

These who attended the seminar staged in Warrington by Ken Phillips last October will be interested to know more about the "Anamnesis" project. This is a witness-centred questionnaire for close encounter witnesses aiming to test the "psychopath" hypothesis of Austrian psychiatrist Dr Alex Keul. (Which is not that witnesses are all psychopaths - but rather that their experiences are the products of a psychological disorder).

Much debate surrounded some of the questions (eg "do you take salt?") and Keul and Phillips have now revised the questionnaire to drop some of the most contentious probings. Kerl, in a January 1985 progress report to me, explains "I am not too interested in labels for the UFO witness ('neurotic', 'psychotic', 'psychopathic' etc), but rather in clues to his/her (unconscious) inner reality, his life situation, wishes, frustrations and beliefs that could shape the way he/she experiences strange happenings".

Anamnesis is meant to be a "life history" adjunct to physical parameter investigation and, as such, the BUFORA NIC have agreed to adopt it on an experimental basis (at the discretion of individual investigators). After two years, when enough cases have been evaluated by a range of psychologists/psychiatrists, it can be ascertained whether the scheme has merit for continuation and has taught us anything.

Copies of some preliminary anamnesis experiments on close encounter witnesses have been received, including analysis of them by Keul. Some life-history data is accessible, as are levels of imagination and ESP/UFO awareness. These reflect useful parameters for case evaluation. However, both Keul and Phillips have admitted (March 1985) that the results of the first batch of tests do not support the "psychopath" hypothesis. Even in the most bizarre of cases, witnesses generally show no sign of any kind of abnormal psychological profile.

Of course, negative results such as this (when compiled over the full term of the project on sufficient witness totals) will be of immense importance to ufology.

Any field investigator wishing to participate in the project and try anamnesis on specific witnesses, with results assessed by Dr Keul, can contact Ken Phillips:-
13 Falcon Ave Springfields Milton Keynes Bucks MK6 3HG (Tel 876670)

Copies of the questionnaire are freely available from him. Ken asks to be notified of all ongoing anamnesis work so he can coordinate the long-term experiment.

TAPPING THE HIDDEN CASES: A research project by the SSPR, reported by Dr Michele Clare

Often we argue that there must be dozens of oases out there which we never hear about, because (for various reasons) the witnesses fail to report them to a source which ufo investigators are likely to discover. Estimates about the extent of this "hidden" potential have been offered. Now the SSPR have made available the results of a questionnaire study operated between 1982 and 1984 which provides some hard data.

In this period questionnaires were distributed to a range of people in a random selection of locations (schools, round-tables, shops etc). Efforts were made to ensure a 50-50 male/female split and a good sample of ages and social status. Only 10 per cent refused to fill out the questionnaire and the results of 202 completed replies are here summarised.

Questions about belief in, and experience of, a range of paranormal phenomena were asked. Almost none of the admitted cases had been reported to us. Fully 60 per cent had (in their view) undergone some form of "mystical or supernatural" experience "which remained completely inexplicable in normal terms". Of these (leaving out *deja vu* - at an astonishing 67%) the most usual were "Telepathy" (27%), "Sensing an atmosphere" (23%), "Premonitions" (23%), "Out of Body Experiences" (14%). UFOs tied exactly with "Apparitions" (ghosts) at 8%. This was twice the level for "Poltergeists" and "Spirit Messages", but possibly lower than we might have anticipated.

Even so, if we can take this figure as reasonably representative, then it amounts to 8% of the 55 million inhabitants of Britain having had a UFO sighting. This comes to FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND British witnesses! This absolutely staggering total leaves the mind boggling. If you allow the usual accepted 10% UFO ration then that still comes to 480,000 genuine UFO encounters in Britain alone - out there in people's heads! A (possibly over-optimistic) figure for the number we have collated onto files over the past four decades comes to about 25,000 British cases. In other words about one-twentieth of the total! For every UFO sighting we investigate there are another nineteen we never get to hear about.

Something is very wrong with our public relations!

Incidentally, 35% said they "believed" in UFOs (less than telepathy, life after death and astrology!) But 40% preferred to "pass" on deciding (easily the highest 'don't know' result) - meaning only one in four do not accept the reality of the UFO mystery.



MEDIA MATTERS:-
A look at UFOs in the public eye

The event of the past couple of months was the latest Soviet UFO scare. "Red Skies at Night are every alien's delight", as the Glasgow Daily Record (1 Feb) put it. Another effort was "Red UFO was green". But it was the usually vitriolic anti-UFO Daily Telegraph (31 Jan) with its "'Green Cloud' stirs Soviet UFO dispute" that was the most informative. I did a BBC World Services interview on the case, which involves yet another in the series of aircraft/UFO encounters the phenomenon has been throwing up of late. (An Aeroflot TU-134 flying over Minsk encountered a greenish cloud-like UFO which was also tracked on radar). Most interesting is the international promotion of the events by TASS (the news agency), allegedly because it is genuine according to the new UFO commission (under cosmonaut Popovizh), which was set up in 1984. However, I am forced to wonder if James Oberg is not right (for once) and that, when the Russians make very obvious public waves about a "UFO", then that "UFO" is almost certainly a secret space-launch (star-wars weaponry?) which they are trying to hide from their own people under an appropriate cloud of disinformation.

At the same time as all this the Luton press were helping out the BUFORA NIC in an effort to trace the camera-owner who supplied to JR a 20-second piece of daylight movie-film of a most interesting object near the Isle of Wight. The film arrived anonymously, with no covering letter, and investigation of it by MUFORA and NIC investigator Paul Fuller (in Hampshire) has left it looking worth more follow-up. "UFO hunter seeks clue to new film" (Luton Herald, 31 Jan) was one of the better stories arranged thanks to Bill Dillon, a local ufologist. Sadly no response has come from the almost blanket coverage of the one area of possibility (as the film arrived with a Luton postmark). Still, it was a nice change to see the media working for us!

The Hartlepool Mail (25 Jan) had a fascinating full-page article from Paul Screeton called "Cosmic Rock", covering a subject I am personally very involved with, the relationship between musicians and the UFO phenomena. I reviewed this in "The Pennine UFO Mystery", suggesting that the telepathic message (transformed into visions during a QC Experience) might also manifest in art forms like music and novel writing. I develop this much more fully in a chapter or two of my coming book "Beyond Explanation".

This timely Mail article swings over a wide range of sightings by pop stars and other weird tales, some of which were new to me. Did you know David Bowie used to work for a UFO magazine in England? (It wasn't us!) That Mick Jagger used to have a UFO detector in his house? Or that Cat Stevens' "Moonshadow" is about UFOs? (I knew his song "The House of Freezing Steel" was about a CIA abduction - but I never read a UFO context into "Moonshadow"). Pity Paul Screeton did not explore why so many rock stars are attracted to UFO experiences? This is to me the real question!

UFO sightings per se in the media have faded away to virtual non-existence over the past six months (just five have been recorded in any British newspaper, national or local, since October). The Maidenhead Advertiser (25 Jan) has the delicious tale "Two men took UFO away", which tells of the UFO like a black table cloth which fell onto an apple tree at 16.00 on 11 January. Then two men drove up in a Ford Fiesta and promptly loaded the UFO into the boot! They simply said it was American! Another of several witnesses to the 'landing' and most unusual 'UFO abduction' (!) said it plainly had a length of green toilet paper trailing behind it. Bracknell deny it was one of their weather balloons, but police believe from all descriptions it was a balloon, probably being used by a university or college in a prank or experiment.

Finally, the Morning Advertiser, moaning about the snow, says William Hills offers 20-1 odds against a White Easter, 33-1 against Robert Redford making the next US president, but 100-1 against UFOs getting official recognition. Maybe I should invest next year's Northern UFO News subscriptions in that!

BRIEF CASES:-

Some Current Investigations



SPOT THE UFO...

Darren Egerton of MUFORA chased up this sighting by TT of Shaw, Nr Oldham, on 26 Dec 1984 at 22.20 hrs. He observed about 10 points of light in a V formation spread out about 110 degrees, moving E-W and in view about 4 seconds, crossing the sky in this time. Another bright white light blurring across the sky was seen 8 minutes later. MUFORA discussed the case thoroughly before evaluating it - what as?? (see below)

Notes:

Paul Devereux writes excitedly to tell me "Lights from rocks are not piezo-electric. I saw it proved by physicists a few months ago." He is now favouring triboluminescence (a theory mooted by Dr Helmut Tributsch, see NUN review of his 1983 book "When the Snakes Awake"). Paul was fascinated by the "repeater ball lightning" case (8326) (see p.8 NUN 110). Whilst he agrees that the initial sighting sounds like BL, the evidence for this in the second UAP event at the same location is scant. However, the case raises all kinds of questions about the BL/UAP/Earthlights inter-face. Paul notes that the Hinckley area seems to have quite a history of strange natural phenomena (see reference to the apparent 'demon name' of the local woods, suggesting it has played host to the paranormal over the centuries). He reminds midlands investigators that the famous Barwell meteor fell there in 1965 and that there have been other (documented) BL sightings nearby. He trusts that somebody in the East Midlands is looking into the geology associated with case 8326 and these spooky woods well - are you?? Let us know what you find out!

Tranville Oldroyd has obtained more information on the "infamous" Cosmos 1068 booster rocket re-entry of 31 December 1978. The British Astronomical Association has advised that the closest it came to northern England was 300 miles east. Pieces fell to earth around Hanover, having crossed close to Britain midway between Orkney and Shetland. In his book "The Mysterious World of Arthur C Clarke" Clarke denigrates witnesses who say they saw the object low on the horizon; although several of them have written me insisting they did and Clarke is out of his monolithic mind. Considering height, the earth's curvature, and this new plot of the re-entry track it seems (again) the witnesses were right and the only mystery is where Arthur gets his data from!

SPOT THE UFO... MUFORA discussed the possibility of this being a flock of birds reflecting light beams, but speed seems opposed to this. However, the light information effect is not out of keeping with a bright fireball meteor and there was a storm on the night of the sighting. (see note on last issue). It seems the best option.

SCOP! IS THIS THE CORN-FIELD WRECKER IN ACTION?



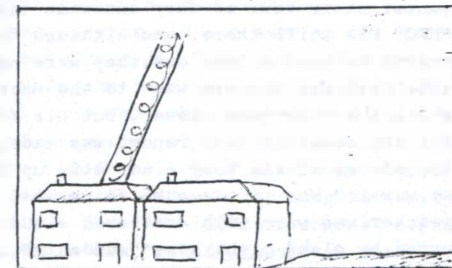
Readers will be familiar with the mysterious circles which have turned up every late June for the past few years in southern England corn fields. They have been subject to much media fuss of the "giant UFOs have landed" type; although local investigations have always centred on the hoax theory (see Philip Taylor's expose of last years Sussex circles) or the stationary whirlwind concept proposed by Dr Terrence Meaden and championed by Ian Mrzyglod and PROBE. (See NUN 111 for an update on the circles research).

I have noted before in NUN that MUFORA investigated some stationary whirlwind cases back in the mid-seventies, reported in this magazine. In UFOs: A British Viewpoint there is a Northumbria case from July 1977 which is almost certainly such an effect. Now we have an excellent eyewitness report sent to me by AF of Merseyside, a 48 yr old meter reader and amateur ley hunter. He may well have seen, face to face, what is producing all the furore down south.

Date: late June 1983 Time: 17.30 BST

Location: Rhyl railway station, Clwyd

AF was waiting for a train when he was suddenly aware of a twisting funnel of rising debris, dust and litter about 200 yards away behind some houses. This was looking SSW. The base was masked by the houses, but the funnel itself rose to around 60-80 ft. Inside was virtually clear, except for the scattered debris, and was not unlike a giant vacuum cleaner sucking things up. The column was inclined at just a few degrees off vertical, and spiral effects could be seen in the rising masses of air. When it reached the top it simply vanished, as if the debris disappeared into a black hole. AF had seen film of American tornadoes and points out the differences. The column was not dark, there were no clouds above it, the debris just disappeared, the rotation seemed slower, and the weather conditions were in no way stormy. It was a warm, sunny day with scattered cloud and virtually no breeze. After about 10-15 seconds the object simply disappeared. AF is aware of no other witnesses, as he was stood on the platform beside a trackless bay which is usually deserted.



Obviously, this has to be a stationary whirlwind in action. The dating, weather, odd appearance and very transient nature (staying absolutely static in one position) all fit the phenomenon which may be causing the southern England circles. If AF had not caught his train, and examined the ground beneath where the funnel was, would there have been a circle? I wonder!

ON THE NIGHT OF THE LAKENHEATH UFO...

Case 5605 14 August 1956 Early am Otterburn Camp, Northumbria MUFORA

Everybody knows about the famous Lakenheath/Bentwaters radar-visual case of the night 13-14 August 1956. It is one of the main events in UFO history. The Condon Report failed to crack it, and regarded it as genuine. Reinvestigation by Dr James McDonald in 1969-70 (published as a major series in FSR) seemed to make it classic. Philip Klass has tried to shoot it down as anomalous radar returns and (guess what?) a misperception of the Orford Ness lighthouse! However, new data has been followed up by Peter Warrington and myself, which we were intending to publish in our new book. Now we are delaying this for publication in due course elsewhere. There is alarming evidence that the case is not as watertight as it might have once seemed.

Following this track, JR received a letter from a reader of "Sky Crash" describing his experiences on the same night. They are potentially very illuminating, and have been pursued because of that, despite the time gap since the encounter.

Witness KY was 18 at the time and doing his service in the army at Otterburn, a remote area on the northern borders of England. The date is reasonably certain due to subsequent postings. KY was on guard duty (which began at 12 midnight) with another young national service man whom he never kept in touch with (his name was John and he came from the London area). The events began some time after they came on duty (around

2-3 am). They did not see the object appear in the east, but suddenly John spotted a brilliant white oval of light near the ground by some trees. It moved up and down slightly and looked to be as big as a "football". The ground appeared to be lit by it. The two men were very concerned and watched for over an hour, until their tour of duty ended. As they went inside the "UFO" was still there, and although they asked the new guards to keep a look out, they were not interested in it and ignored their requests. Next day the men went to the spot in daylight but found nothing. KY now regrets not having gone closer, but his friend kept repeating "it's a helicopter" without any conviction. No report was made, because (as KY says) "our only thought was to get out of the army - not stir up trouble".



What was it? Was it the same thing seen by some of the Lakenheath witnesses? Well - the weather was warm with scattered cloud and air turbulence. This means something obscured by cloud might have "suddenly" appeared low on the horizon. The turbulence might well have created temperature inversions (see problems of the anomalous radar echoes in East Anglia). And there was a very bright object setting on the eastern horizon at 2-3 am! This was Venus. It is impossible not to be suspicious of a long duration sighting such as this. But does this have any lessons for the "big one" that same night? From the research of Peter and myself, we think it may have!

Case 6407 December 5 1964 00.30 Glasgow, Scotland Inv: MUFORA

Witness MG was 16 at the time, but is now a joiner and "amateur ufologist"! He says "I have kept a secret for 20 years now". This "secret" involves himself, a young friend, that friend's parents, aunt and sister. All six witnesses were returning home by car to England from a Scottish dancing competition which the sister had entered.

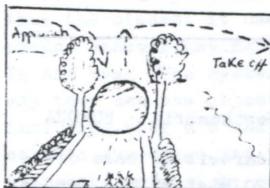
They were returning from Glasgow when a hailstorm struck. This cleared as they were on the road between Glasgow and Hamilton "in the middle of nowhere". MG was dozing on the backseat when he was woken by the father yelling out "What's that cigar in the sky?". MG caught sight of something ahead and the car pulled to a halt. They all saw what was now an orange ball of light (nobody else saw it as cigar-like and the father did not see it change shape). It was about 3 feet off the ground and spanned the entire width of the road, between two sets of trees. Estimates place it about 200 feet from them.

The father switched the car lights off as it was giving out sufficient illumination and they all wanted to see it better. It neither moved nor emitted any sound. Nobody felt frightened, just a chill feeling "like someone was walking over my grave", MG explains. Then they all got out of the car!

There seems to be evidence of the Oz factor at this point; total silence, no other traffic and this remarkable hypnotic calmness. Estimates of time also become difficult, but MG says it hovered there for at least five minutes whilst they stood transfixed. The colour and shape did not change at all.

MG now began to walk towards it, but as if in response the object rose to the tops of the trees (vertically) and then set off westwards at a drifting pace of about 10 mph. It seemed to dip into the valley and within a couple of seconds was lost to view. As it moved away, at no time did its size or orientation alter - a fact which MG finds very peculiar. The long journey home after that was not timed, so there is no way of judging whether this is all there is to this sighting. Who knows?

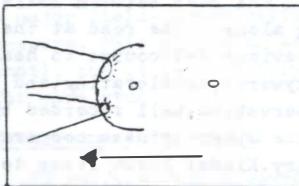
Witness testimony appears consistent and has maintained accuracy. MG provides a dignified statement, "I swear to God that what I have written is the truth." Ball lightning, UAP, or what???



ANOTHER PENNINE "MANTA-RAY"

Case 8412 May 31 1984 22.20 Staveley, Derbyshire Inv: Dave Kelly Chesterf

Long time readers of this magazine (or of The Pennine UFO Mystery and UFO reality will know that a particular type of UFO, sometimes known as the "Manta-Ray", has been very common over the past years, especially in the Pennines. Here is another example.



Mrs JS and her 12 year old son were in the garden prior to retiring to bed. Their dog (who was unaffected) was also with them. JS saw what she took to be a bright 'star' in the sky (bearing 112), but when she pointed it out to her son they both realised it was an object moving towards them. It then resolved into two "headlights", with cone shaped lights from each which did not illuminate anything but empty air. The

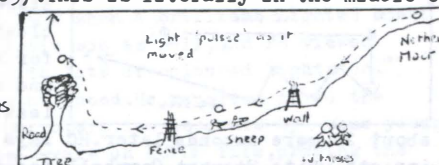
object passed directly overhead and only a faint "whispering engine" noise was heard. Two lights on the underside were seen, and a dim "rounded" surface faintly perceived (although the headlights were too bright to allow much vision). It drifted off on a WNW course (bearing 292) at a slowish speed and only a dark mass was now visible. JS is over 50, wears glasses, but is ex WRAF and says she has never seen an aircraft approach from that direction before. She is very familiar with aircraft. Several other local witnesses were found to what seems to have been the same object. Squadron Leader Derek Exley, the MoD report collector based at RAF Finningley, took details but had no solution to offer. So what was it?

The track followed is virtually a direct approach to the main runway at Manchester International Airport. The sky was unusually clear (zero Oktars) with almost no wind. It traffic was light it is very possible that Manchester cleared an aircraft straight in on an unusual very long approach. Quiet jets with landing lights on (despite being about 35 miles from touchdown) look and sound exactly like this report. Whalley Bridge (where a very similar sighting occurred some years ago) is precisely on line of Staveley-Manchester Airport. Despite the Chesterfield group's generally excellent investigation they forgot to check Manchester Airport, because as often occurs in such cases, the explanation seems ridiculous. MUFORA fell into the same trap for our first few "Manta-Ray" cases, but their clustering around Cheshire/Derbyshire (ie Ringway!) cannot be coincidence. As "The Pennine UFO Mystery" notes pilots have been known to switch off all cabin and navigation lights on cargo flights, turn down the engines, and glide in on a calm, starry night (to watch the skies!) I think this case is almost certainly another example of a naughty pilot, breaching CAA regulations! Perhaps we ought to do something about it before one of these jets crashes onto Chesterfield or Macclesfield! There are enough cases to be rather worrying now.

"BALL LIGHTNING" OVER THE PENNINES :- OR WAS IT AN EARTHLIGHT?

Case 8413 August 27 1984 11.00 Edale, Derbyshire Inv: SSPR (Michele Clare)

Witness MD is a 25 yr old laboratory worker, who is careful and meticulous. He made an immediate diary entry of the sighting, which greatly impressed him. His flat mate was with him at the time and SSPR are trying to interview him. The morning was bright and clear, although cloudy, and both men were hiking along the footpath from Jagers Clough to Nether Booth (OS Ref Map 110s- 146865). This is literally in the middle of nowhere, the High Peak Vale of Edale (although midway between Manchester and Sheffield). The first sight was of a shining ball of light as it moved down the slope from Nether Moor. It was about 250 yds away at this point and MD assumed it to be a piece of plastic debris in the breeze. It moved across the top of the bracken and MD firmly expected it to get



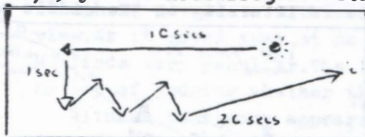
caught in barbed wire atop a stone wall midway down the slope. But it passed through. (A feat which seems hard to explain for ball lightning which would probably have "earthed"). It then drifted over a field of sheep (who displayed no reaction) and then quite definitely through a full fencing of barbed wire at the foot of the field. It was at this point that he realised it was strange and pointed it out to his friend. The object now ascended to the top of a row of trees lining the road between Edale and Hope and hovered there for some seconds, before going along the road at the other side, now having turned at right angles from its previous N-S course to head W-E. After some more seconds the object began to climb skywards, accelerating, and was lost into cloud above them. This is a fascinating observation, well recorded by the witness, and it is to be hoped that the SSPR do find the other witness cooperative. The area is rugged and faulted so ideal earthlights country. Kinder Scout rises to its cruel heights of over 2000 feet just a couple of miles from where these events took place.

Case 8414 September 28 1984 21.30 Cumbernauld, Scotland Inv: Tam O'Neill

A "rounded" oval object with two white headlights at the front, and some dimmer lights on the underside (red and green), drifting slowly on an SSE to WNW course and making a faint engine whirring sound.... does that seem familiar? It is almost an action replay of case 8412. After this initial sighting, which Tam O'Neill himself suspects was an aircraft (another "glider"?), the main witness (PM) saw several other lights. However, it seems he was watching astronomical objects in a heightened state of sensitivity, fading in and out of cloud. At least that is a reasonable suggestion. PM later took several photographs (on October 23 at 06.05) of a glowing oblong with lights and a faint whispering sound. He tried many exposures and shutter speeds as the 'craft' drifted over, using a Praktica MTL3 with a 80-200mm zoom lens. Aperture was left at f2.5 and fuji RD100 film was in the camera. Most of the frames were blank (PM thinks because of his guessing at the correct exposures in the dark). But three were forwarded for analysis. One was blank. The other two, examined by Stuart Campbell of BUPORA, depict (a) two light sources of intermittent nature (yellowish/red in colour), both tracking the same course (b) a bright halo of light illuminating tree lines. From comparison photos at the site & witness testimony of observing one object and not two, the investigators have concluded that the photographs show sodium streetlights which the camera picked up by accident due to the long telephoto lens used. The pulsing displayed may be due to the effect described by Janet and Colin Bord (NUN 111) on a long time-exposure shot. However, more research on the case will be conducted. PM had a further sighting on 7 December, but again the investigators found only evidence of exaggeration and misperception. Something which seems to have pervaded this case.

Case 8415 October 20 1984 23.50 Kirkcaldy, Scotland Inv: Stuart Campbell

HC, 29 yr old housewife, was with her 33 yr old husband when both observed a bright star-like light in the N. It was far away across a clear, cold sky. Witnesses estimate it tracked west for about 10 seconds, then shot vertically downwards, and then zig-zagged eastwards with a "spiral" motion leaving no trail, until lost to sight behind rooftops about 20 more seconds later. HC says its colour was yellow/orange, but her husband insists white. Stuart Campbell received R1 form and wrote to advise witnesses they must have seen a fireball meteor during the Orionid shower! (???)



CASE HISTORIES

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

BUPORA field study by Ken Phillips

Vase 8330

In September 1983 Peter Rainbow, a 44-year old unemployed man from Northampton, read "The Pennine UFO Mystery" and wrote to JR. The events he had to relate initiated a major field-investigation which (as usual) leaves us with more questions than answers. This may be an abduction case, or an extreme hoax (there is no evidence for that), but it is certainly a fascinating repeater witness scenario which cries out for more study.

Background Information:

PR suffers from a speech defect and memory impairment (which seems to have got worse since his last encounter). However, his anamnesis and psychological profile (including Rorschach inkblots), as tested by Dr Alex Keul of Salzburg University, has come out normal. And his testimony has been consistent and apparently sincere over the 18 months since he first contacted us. In view of the extraordinary life history this is remarkable.

PR spent a number of years in the army, at first under conscription, serving in Aden, and then as a regular army man with the ordnance corps (where he was a driver). This took him through the sixties. After leaving he worked in a Yorkshire mill (where he was the victim of a violent poltergeist attack). His marriage then foundered and he was left in the charge of two teenage boys (eldest now 18 and autistic). He worked for the local police in an office job until soon after his 1982 sighting, and he believes "bad press" (ie ridicule) about this has put him on a "blacklist". He has not worked since. More likely it is his stutter and memory lapses which are to blame, although he comes over as a mild mannered, very sincere and honest individual.

Early Encounters:

Whilst stationed in the army at Westphalia, Germany, PR claims to have been a second-hand-witness to a UFO encounter. He had driven a truck of rocket motors to a base on the Dutch border, but the base commander was away and so he had to wait until his return. The truck was parked on base and a corporal came to escort him for a drink. Then the base went on full alert! Apparently radar had detected an "unknown" heading for Berlin. Radio messages had failed to achieve a response. So a flight of Lightning jets were scrambled for take off. PR claims they made visual contact with an unknown craft and obtained gun-camera movie film of it. The base was told that the matter was subject to the official secrets act.

However, he did not have long to wait for a closer confrontation. Peter was returning to England in 1968, about to leave the Army. They were in an old chartered turbo-prop plane and had just refuelled at Turkey and taken off again. Flying over some mountains he saw a strange oval object off the starboard wing (at about 400 yards). Others with him saw it too. Using his camera he took several photographs of it before it just zipped away. The senior officer on board then rounded up all film (including his) and took it away, explaining he was not allowed to take pictures onboard a military plane. He does not even know if the film came out. But, if it did he says, then somewhere at the MoD is proof of the reality of UFOs.

This built up slowly to a sighting in August 1982 when a brilliant lighted object hovered near his house. This was seen by his autistic son as well, and PR viewed through binoculars. It looked like a dome shape with lots of coloured lights on. After hovering for about 13 minutes it shot away at speed. He reported it to the local paper, who carried a story also featuring corroborative accounts by some young boys in the area. This brought laughter and "retza" explanations. There are on BUPORA file, proving the accuracy of this testimony, at least. Dates were 21/22 August 1982 (see NUN # 95)

An Abduction?:

In February 1983 PR now underwent his strangest of all encounters. He was going to visit his elderly invalid mother at Little Houghton, a journey of some 15 mins along the A428. He left at 18.45 on his motorcycle-sidecar combination, leaving Peter at home and promising not to be late. About half way there, at Great Houghton, he was down to third gear to negotiate a bend on a hill when all power failed. Engines, lights, horn; the lot. Presuming a fuse had gone he stopped and decided to use an old trick (wrapping silver foil round the fuse). But nothing worked even so. Then he got out a new fuse to put in, but with fuse still in hand he spotted something odd off to the side. A brilliant "football" of white light was hovering nearby, just a few feet off the ground in adjacent fields.

At this point PR noticed that the road was unusually quiet for the time of night, and all sounds around him had gone. "It was deathly quiet" he says (the Oz factor). He continued to watch the object, now swaying from side to side and rotating, for what he estimates was about five minutes, and then it suddenly shot up into the sky. He has no idea what happened to the fuse, or how the ignition key ended up in his hands (it had been locked in prior to seeing the UFO). But he replaced it, turned the key, and the bike started up first time.

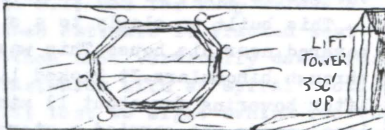
Baffled by all this he drove on to Little Houghton, but then stopped at the Church when he saw the clock. It read 20.30 - meaning (according to all his estimates) that he had lost around an hour and a half of time. He went to his mothers, but her lights were off (she goes to bed very early) and so he did not call. Instead he went home still shaking his head in puzzlement, and decided after the "you saw a meteor" ridicule, he and the boys got following their August 1982 sighting, he was not going to breathe a word about this one! Next day he checked the motorcycle circuits and the fuse. There was nothing wrong with any of them.

As the map above shows, this time-loss case is fascinating because of its location. Aside from being very near to Rushden (home town of 'Gary', the man who claims to be an alien following a childhood time-loss encounter in his garden) it is just 8 miles from Church Stowe, where in 1979 one woman had a time-loss experience after her car was surrounded by "white footballs". (Under hypnosis she recalled only that the attempted abduction had failed and she had been rejected) (See UFO REALITY). What's more, also within ten miles lives Ian Watson, the writer of the sci-fi 'novel' "Miracle Visitors" which (aside from being superb UFO theory, and meant to be taken seriously) concerns abduction and time-loss (retrieved by hypnosis). Ian Watson has commented that when he was writing it (he lived in Oxford then) UFOs "homed in" closer and closer to his house. That Ian, Gary, and two abduction/time-loss witnesses should all live in the same part of Northamptonshire is, to say the least, intriguing!

Aftermath:

On 20 June 1984, at about 00.42, PR had (to date) his last encounter. He was lying in bed but could not sleep, when a brilliant object appeared outside his window and drifted slowly by. It filled most of the window and looked like a glowing "chinese lantern" with very bright orange lights pouring out and blue sparks emerging from the rear. A sound like a "moped" was being emitted. After about 20 seconds it just vanished. PR called his son, Peter, but he was too deep asleep to wake.

Obviously, further exploration of this case is called for and regression hypnosis (by way of Dr Malcolm Scott at Luton Hospital) is being considered. More on this to come. I am sure!

LADY MADONA AND THE UFO Investigation by Stuart Campbell of BUFORA

Case 8408 April 25 1984 17.00 GMT Blairgowrie, Scotland

1984 was a quiet year, but crammed into the week April 18-25 was a "mini-wave" of very strange encounters. We have already met the two Anglian airport encounters on the 18th and 19th (see NUN 110). Next month there is an "official secrets act/cover-up/military witness" photographic case to report from the 23rd. Now we can present a case that certainly baffled Stuart Campbell and left him suggesting that an operation the main witness had (a few weeks prior to the events) may have generated a physiological/hallucinogenic experience. "Hallucination?" - was how he concluded.

Mrs GF, aged 59, was in her garden doing a tapestry of the "Madona and Child", with her Collie dog "Shep" asleep beside her. It was a warm, clear day with little wind. She lay on the sunlounger glad that the evening was cooling the air. Her son, Sid, was round the front of the house gardening.

Suddenly "Shep" lept up, tail between his legs, and fled indoors. GF, who was holding her tapestry up to the light to compare colours, suddenly saw a ball of light appear between her head and the tapestry. It came towards her and seemed to enter her! She was temporarily blinded, but felt very calm and "beautiful". The white cloud then rose up from her head and hovered over a bush nearby, illuminating it. Here it 'blinked' twice, and now almost like a ghostly phantom, rose between two fir trees into the air and hovered. It seemed to be pointing out a silvery shape, just visible beyond some trees.

Getting up to follow the "virgin" Mrs GF walked round to a patch of the garden where she dries her washing and there stood a "monster" but a "beautiful sight". It was the size of a dirigible or barrage balloon and just hovering in mid-air. In shape it was like a "Yale Key" and there was no sign of any doors, windows or such things. The glowing cloud moved about beneath it pointing out in turn each of five "V" shapes on the underside (which lit up as it did so). Then it stepped back a little and the whole UFO lit up. Mrs GF called to her son "I bet you don't know what I am looking at" - and he came from the front of the house. The whole experience had now lasted between five and ten minutes.

Sid F confirms her description of how the events ended (although Stuart Campbell says of this "I am not sure her son did see what she saw", and does not elaborate, save to point out that Sid F was already interested in UFOs prior to the sighting). However, both he and his mother say there was a weird pink flash in the sky (GF says the UFO began to sway and then vanished in this flash as her son appeared). GF says she was staring at it "transfixed" and her son confirms she was doing this when he came to her.

The police were immediately called and some officers arrived and took statements, also inspecting the garden. They seemed convinced and tried to find other witnesses. They also sent a report to RAF Leuchars, near Dundee (about 20 miles SE). Leuchars told the police, who called Sid F to explain this on the 26th, that nothing could be done as no other witnesses had been found.

Four weeks later (approximately) according to both Mrs F and her son, an unmarked helicopter appeared and circled their garden five times, tipping as it passed the trees where the UFO had hovered. Both side doors were open and, although no occupants were seen, a red glow emerged from inside the helicopter. Sid F is convinced infra-red monitors were being used by the RAF investigators. He reported this to a local reporter who inquired of the police. They told him to "mind your own business". Meanwhile, two days after the first time, the same helicopter had briefly returned and passed over the garden again. The red glows were visible on this second occasion too.

The investigator has made no attempt to check into this possibility. But it seems unlikely that RAF Leuchars or the MoD would admit they sent out a helicopter with infra-red detectors even if (as seems intriguingly possible) they did just that! Any thoughts from readers on where to go with this case would be appreciated.

3 FINAL
WORDS

RENDLESHAM FOREST UPDATES:- Several readers have asked for progress reports on the case since the material in "SKY CRASH" was completed. Here are some of the ones to look out for:- INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER (CUFOS) Nov/Dec 1984 (Article by JR summarising the current state of the case) QUEST (YUFOS) Nov/Dec 1984 (Detailed review incorporating data learnt by the Yorkshire group in recent attempts) JAN/FEB 1985 (Article by JR summarising new features of the evidence since book:- viz Halt tape, new witnesses, media response etc) MUFON JOURNAL Jan 1985 (Detailed review plus East Anglia press articles reprinted with new material) (A detailed JR article on the pros and cons of the Halt tape has been submitted to MUFON for early publication) MAGONIA Jan 1985 (A very negative, pro-lighthouse review, to which a detailed denial of the lighthouse theory has been submitted) (Magonia rejected the first response to the review) FATE April 1985 (A long Jerry Clark review). UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA (5-5) (Bill Chalker review, plus transglobal interview with JR incorporated to update material). (MUFON also promise early publication of Lucius Farish report of his witness testimony from 1981)

Incidentally, I can at last use the JR acronym without qualms, now that the Randles family is achieving a real link with "Dallas"! My grandmother's cousin's children (Scottish comedian Jimmy Logan and jazz singer/movie actress Annie Ross) have an American nephew who has just announced his engagement to Charlene Tilton (Lucy Ewing in the soap). I am not quite sure what relation that makes this JR to the other one. But it must be (thankfully) rather distant!

NEXT ISSUE... RAF Wing Commander achieves new world height record for aircraft in experimental plane - only to find a UFO saying "Yah! Boo!" and streaking vertically above him! See MUFORA case investigation next issue.

CALENDAR May 4 BUFORA Lecture by Tim Good and Omar Fowler on the Alfred Burtoo abduction from 1983 (The man the aliens threw back!) 6.30 pm. Preceded by NIC meeting (all investigators welcome) (same venue 2pm) LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, Sussex Place, Nr Baker Street tube station.

Jun 28/29/30 MUFON Conference Chase Hotel, St Louis, Missouri. (Includes Friedman, Gersten, Moore, Phillips, Schuessler, Stringfield et al). (Details 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas USA 78155 - 4099)

MUFON

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